

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the Application:

Listing of claims:

1 -25. (Canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method comprising:

partitioning inter-PBX communications from existing PBX communications;

receiving a partitioned inter-PBX communication, via a first network access device, [[a]]  
the partitioned inter-PBX communication comprising a content portion and a signaling portion in  
accordance with a QSIG access protocol;

encapsulating the content portion and the signaling portion of the partitioned inter-PBX  
communication, via the first network access device, to provide a plurality of respective content  
packets and signaling packets;

transmitting the signaling packets from the first network access device to a control  
component via a data network;

establishing, via the control component, a connection within the data network between  
the first network access device and a second network access device in response to receiving the  
signaling packets; and

communicating the content packets from the first network access device to the second  
network access device over the established connection.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 26 ~~wherein~~ where the establishing comprises configuring the first network access device and the second network access device using the control component to establish the connection via the data network.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising mapping the signaling portion from a QSIG access protocol to another signaling protocol, and communicating the signaling portion to the second access device after the mapping.

29. (currently amended) A method comprising:

partitioning inter-PBX communications from existing PBX communications;

receiving a partitioned inter-PBX communication, the partitioned inter-PBX [[a]]

communication comprising a QSIG content portion and a QSIG signaling portion;

encapsulating the QSIG content portion and the QSIG signaling portion of the partitioned inter-PBX communication, by a first network access device, to provide a plurality of respective content packets and signaling packets;

sending the signaling packets from the first network access device to a control component through a first D channel via a data network;

establishing, via a second D channel from the control component to a second network access device, a B channel connection within the data network between the first network access device and the second network access device; and

communicating the content packets from the first network access device to the second network access device over the established B channel connection.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 29 ~~wherein~~ where the first and second D channels are implemented as virtual circuits.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 29 ~~wherein~~ where the B channel is implemented as a virtual circuit.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 29 ~~wherein~~ where the received partitioned inter-PBX communication is transmitted from a first PBX switch.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 32 ~~wherein~~ where the second network access device transmits the content packets to a second PBX switch.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 29 ~~wherein~~ where the QSIG content portion and a QSIG signaling portion are continuous signals.

35. (currently amended) A method comprising:

partitioning inter-PBX communications from existing PBX communications;  
receiving a partitioned inter-PBX communication, the partitioned inter-PBX  
communication including a signal packet including QSIG signaling information; and  
establishing a bearer channel connection between a first network access device and a  
second network access device using the QSIG signaling information.

36. (currently amended) The method of claim 35 ~~wherein~~ where the received signal packet is transmitted from a first network device to a control component.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 36 ~~wherein~~ where the control component establishes the bearer channel connection between the first network access device and the second network access device.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 35 further comprising:

transmitting content packets between the first network access device and the second network access device.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 35 further comprising:

mapping the received QSIG signaling information to another protocol prior to establishing the bearer channel.

40. (currently amended) A method ~~performed by a first network access device, the method~~ comprising:

partitioning inter-PBX communications from existing PBX communications;  
receiving a partitioned inter-PBX communication, the partitioned inter-PBX  
communication including a QSIG communication including a content portion and a signaling  
portion;

encapsulating the content portion and the signaling portion of the partitioned inter-PBX communication to provide a plurality of respective content packets and signaling packets; and  
transmitting the signaling packets to a control component for use in establishing a connection between [[the]] a first network access device and a second network access device.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 40 ~~wherein~~ where the network access device receives the partitioned inter-PBX QSIG communication from a PBX switch.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 40 further comprising:

establishing a bearer channel connection between the first network access device and the second network access device.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 40 further comprising:

transmitting the content packets from the first network access device to the second network access device.

44. (currently amended) The method of claim 40 ~~wherein~~ where the second network access device is a non-QSIG device.

45. (previously presented) A system comprising:

a Private Branch Exchange (PBX) switch configured to:

partition inter-PBX communications from existing PBX communications; and

a network access device configured to:

receive a partitioned inter-PBX communication that includes a QSIG signal that contains a signal portion and a content portion;

encapsulate the received signal portion into signal packets and the received content portion into content packets; and

transmit the signal packets to establish a communication channel to a second network access device.

46. (currently amended) The system of claim 45 ~~wherein~~ where when transmitting the signal packets, the network access device is configured to:

transmit the signal packets to a control component via a data network.

47. (currently amended) The system of claim 46 ~~wherein~~ where the communication channel is established through the data network.

48. (currently amended) The system of claim 45 ~~wherein~~ where the network access device is further configured to:

transmit the content packets to the second network access device.

49. (currently amended) The system of claim 45 ~~wherein~~ where the received signal portion and the received content portion are continuous signals.

50. (currently amended) The system of claim 45 ~~wherein~~ where the network access device receives the partitioned inter-PBX QSIG signal from ~~[[a]]~~ the PBX switch.

51. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a Private Branch Exchange (PBX) switch configured to:

partition inter-PBX communications from existing PBX communications; and

a control component configured to:

receive a partitioned inter-PBX communication that includes a signal packet that includes QSIG information; and

establish a bearer communication channel between a first network access device and a second network access device using the received QSIG information.

52. (currently amended) The system of claim 51 ~~wherein~~ where the control component receives the signal packet from the first network access device.

53. (currently amended) The system of claim 52 ~~wherein~~ where the control component is further configured to:

map the received signal packet to another protocol for transmission to the second network access device.

54. (currently amended) The system of claim 51 ~~wherein~~ where the control component is further configured to:

return the bearer channel to an idle state after transmission of content packets from the first network access device to the second network access device.